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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Preparing to tell Story of Jesus in 2012

**State Evangelism  
Conference comes  
to Brandon Church,  
January 29-30**

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The 2012 Mississippi State Evangelism Conference at Brandon Church, Brandon, will begin and end with worship services, kicking off with a 6 p.m. service on the evening of Jan. 29 and concluding with a service beginning at 6:15 p.m. the next evening. In between will be plenty of other praise and worship opportunities combined with singing, preaching, exhibits, and even a complimentary dinner.

The Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is sponsoring the annual event. "When I look at the list of those who will be speaking, I see some of the top preachers in the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention that people want to hear," said MBCB Evangelism Director Don Lum.

"The conference each year offers pastors an opportunity to step away for short time and themselves be fed from the Word by these great preachers," Lum said. "For the laypeople who will be attending, it just doesn't get any better than this."

Lum recalled that when he was searching for a central location to host the conference this year, Brandon Church readily volunteered. "Hosting an event as large as the State Evangelism Conference is a challenge, and Brandon Church graciously offered to do it."

The church's staff will prepare a complimentary dinner from 4:30 - 6 p.m. on Jan. 30, before beginning of the evening session. The dinner will include a mini-concert by Marc Ivey, vocational music evangelist from Lynchburg, Va.

"We are going to enjoy a time of fellowship and entertainment during the dinner,

2012  
STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Jim Futral Junior Hill Kevin Hamm  
Bill Stafford Sammy Gilbreath Mickey Dalrymple Marc Ivey

*A Life, A Cross, A Tomb,  
A Living Lord!*

and then move directly into a time of praise and worship," Lum said.

Among the speakers at the conference will be:

- Kevin Hamm, senior pastor of Gardendale First Church, Gardendale, Al.
- Sammy Gilbreath, director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions in Montgomery.
- Bill Stafford, vocational evangelist from Chattanooga, Tenn.

- Junior Hill, vocational evangelist from Hartselle, Al.
- Jim Futral, MBCB executive director.

• Mickey Dalrymple, retired former pastor of Fairview Church in Columbus and former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

For more information regarding the 2012 State Evangelism Conference, contact Lum at (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: jellis@mbcb.org.

### SCHEDULE

#### JANUARY 29

##### Sunday Evening

6:00 p.m. Praise and  
Worship  
Marc Ivey  
Kevin Hamm

#### JANUARY 30

##### Monday Morning

9:15-  
9:30 a.m. Praise and  
Worship  
9:30-  
9:40 a.m. Welcome  
9:40-  
10:25 a.m. Kevin Hamm  
10:25-  
10:40 a.m. Praise and  
Worship  
10:40-  
11:30 a.m. Sammy  
Gilbreath  
11:30 a.m.  
-1:30 p.m. Break for lunch

##### Monday Afternoon

1:30  
-1:45 p.m. Praise and  
Worship  
1:45  
-2:30 p.m. "A Life"  
Bill Stafford  
2:30  
-2:45 p.m. Praise and  
Worship  
2:45  
-3:30 p.m. "A Cross"  
Junior Hill  
3:30  
-3:45 p.m. Praise and  
Worship  
3:45  
-4:30 p.m. "A Tomb"  
Jim Futral  
4:30  
-6:00 p.m. Dinner provided  
Mini Concert  
Marc Ivey

##### Monday Evening

6:15-6:30 p.m. Praise/Worship  
6:30-7:30 p.m. "A Living Lord"  
Mickey Dalrymple



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# The good guy wins, for once

Ask even a tepid sports fan what is the biggest story in America at the moment, and he might not bring up the University of Alabama's lopsided win over Louisiana State University for college football's national championship. He probably didn't watch much ice hockey this week and isn't up to speed on who's on top of the European soccer circuit. Chances are he can't even recall the presidential debates.

His most likely answer: Tim Tebow. The devout, publicly-unashamed Christian quarterback of the National Football League's Denver Broncos is the talk of the nation. His pinpoint throw to teammate Demaryus Thomas on the first down of overtime in their playoff game against the Pittsburgh Steelers last week-end lifted the Broncos to victory and earned the team a spot opposite the New England Patriots in the upcoming divisional playoffs.

The former University of Florida quarterback, who has two national college football championships and a Heisman Trophy under his belt, has endured a season of harsh and sarcastic criticism for expressing his faith in Jesus Christ and openly giving God the glory for his successes.

"I don't hate him," former Broncos quarterback Jake

Plummer said of Tebow in a recent Phoenix radio station interview. "I just would rather not have to hear (Jesus) every single time he takes a good snap or makes a good hand-off."

Other players, fans, and commentators have made similar — or worse — comments as Tebow has led the Broncos to victory after victory, but not everyone agrees with his detractors.

George Diaz, of the Orlando Sentinel wrote, "(He) is a young man of faith, and that's something that seems to be extremely troublesome for some people. Perhaps it's because it forces us to look deeper at ourselves and wonder if there is an after-life, and whether or not our actions will deem us worthy of eternal salvation."

"America seems to prefer athletes who don't have much personal or religious conviction. Just run a 4.4 40 please, run

your post route precisely, and by all means hit the wide receiver as he breaks on the out pattern."

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, writing in Huff Post Sports, said, "The attacks on Tebow are bizarre, the hatred shown to him by critics strange. People seem to loathe his missionary work more than Ben Roethlisberger's treatment of women ... They seem more offended by his morality than by Kobe Bryant's infidelity. Tebow is touching some real nerve."

Cathy Lynn Grossman, of USA Today pointed out:

- "His against-all-odds heroics brought CBS a mind-blowing 25.9 overnight rating, the best for a wild card football game in almost 25 years.

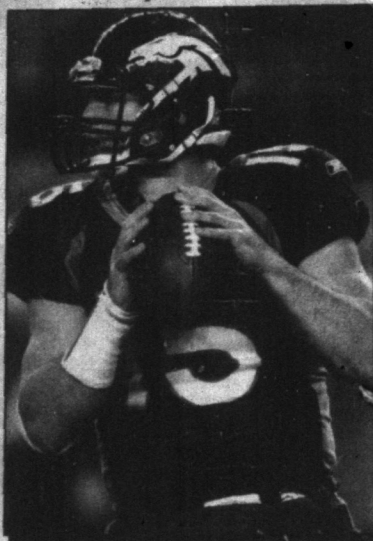
- Sports websites staggered under an onslaught of hits. NFL.com reported views of videos in the hour after the game up 385% over Wild Card Sunday last year.

- Tebow hit more than one million mentions on Twitter. Sunday night, the rate of tweets announcing the victory hit 9,420 per second. The all-time record was set last month when a TV screening of a Japanese movie drew 25,088 tweets-per-second. But Tebow still beats the 8,868 tweets-per-second rate reached when Beyoncé announced her pregnancy during the 2011 MTV Music Awards.

- Both Tebow and his favorite Bible verse, John 3:16 (proclaiming Jesus' promise of salvation), were in the top three Google Trends throughout most of Monday. Many people noted he threw for exactly 316 yards, an unintentional allusion to the Bible verse he etched into his eye black while winning national championships at the University of Florida.

- NFL sales of Tebow's No. 15 Broncos jersey are second only to those for Green Bay Packers QB Aaron Rodgers, who won the Super Bowl last year.

No one knows if Tim Tebow can continue his exciting play and lead the Broncos to Super Bowl fame. He's had times this season when he stumbled badly and his team lost. We do know, however, to whom he will give the glory — win or lose. That's not a bad thing for the nation to see.



My daughter Makaylan is now six months old, and over the last several months people have sought to give my husband and me some "advice" regarding parenting. The advice normally sounds like this: "Enjoy this stage because it all goes downhill from here... This is when they are sweet, and then they grow up to be a three-year old, a pre-teen, and a teenager... I remember when mine were this little and now they are a pain."

Much of the time this advice is given right in front of their children and my heart breaks. What this precious child hears is that they were once valued, but now they are an inconvenience.

We live in a world where we despise being inconvenienced. We eat fast food. We drive fast cars. We talk on fast cell phones. We live in the fast lane. We even DVR our TV shows to watch at a more convenient time.

As stated in a recent New Your Post article, more and more women are choosing not to have children or they regret having them — all because of the apparent inconvenience of children. Since motherhood is a new role for me, I have learned a few things about being "inconvenienced."

I used to get six to eight hours of uninterrupted sleep, but now I

## GUEST OPINION:



### Inconvenienced, or blessed?

By Amanda Walker  
Ruston, La.

count it a blessing when I get four hours of sleep. I've also learned that just because your food is ready to eat does not mean that you will be eating it anytime soon. I laughed with a friend of mine the other day when she said, "I think my little girl hears the 'ding' of the microwave and decides it's time for HER to eat."

Any way you look at it, motherhood is inconvenient — and that is exactly how God designed it!

Did we really think our precious children would come into our lives and not change things? From the moment you hear those amazing words, "You're pregnant!" God desires to mold and shape you into the parent who resembles His fatherly love, but this shaping can only happen as we give over our rights to ourselves and allow God the freedom to shape us.

The problem I have noticed in myself and others is that often times we push against His molding. He wants to produce within us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) and the tools He frequently uses to teach us these virtues is our children.

When we see and treat our children as individuals who have interrupted our nice, cozy life, we disrupt what God desires to do in us and in them. It saddens the heart of God when parents, especially professing Christian parents, handle their children with careless contempt.

The Bible speaks over and over again about the blessing of children (Psalm 128, Psalm 139:13-19, and Jeremiah 1:5). One of my favorite passages on parenthood is Psalm 127:3-4 which says, "Behold, children are a her-

itage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth."

Mothers, your children are a blessing to you. Yes, they are messy, loud, and interrupt your day, but that is exactly what we should expect!

I am so thankful that God does not see me, His child, as an inconvenience. Instead, while I was still a sinner He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for me (Romans 5:8). When I have come to Him in need, I have never felt Him roll His eyes at me or turn away because I called at an inconvenient time. He delights in my need of Him and encourages me to come to Him, with anything and at any time.

So I ask you, Mom, do you see your precious children as inconveniences, or as amazing blessings from God? I pray God will show you how to love and bless your children, even during the inconvenient moments of your day.

Walker, a minister's wife, is in the doctorate of educational ministries program at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. This column first appeared at BiblicalWoman.org, a blog of Southwestern Seminary, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.



# Increasing TV pollution foreseen in case

## Ruling could spur explosion of profanity, sexuality

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Jan. 10 in its most significant broadcast indecency case since 1978, and conservative groups are warning the justices that if the television networks win, profanity and nudity will flood TV broadcasts.

At issue is whether the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has the constitutional authority to set rules governing what is permissible on the airwaves and to fine stations that cross the line. One example is the infamous Janet Jackson Super Bowl incident in 2004, during which one of Jackson's breasts was exposed during her half time performance, and the FCC's ensuing fine of CBS and CBS stations for that incident.

Lower courts overruled the fine, and CBS has yet to pay.

Among other examples of TV indecency that led to FCC fines yet to be paid because of lower court rulings, ABC's NYPD Blue showed a nude female character in 2003 and Fox's Billboard Music Awards in 2002 and 2003 failed to bleep profane words by Cher and Nicole Richie.

The Supreme Court case is an appeal from the U.S. Second Court of Appeals, which in 2010 struck down the FCC's entire broadcast indecency policy. Fox, ABC, CBS, and NBC want the Second Circuit's decision upheld.

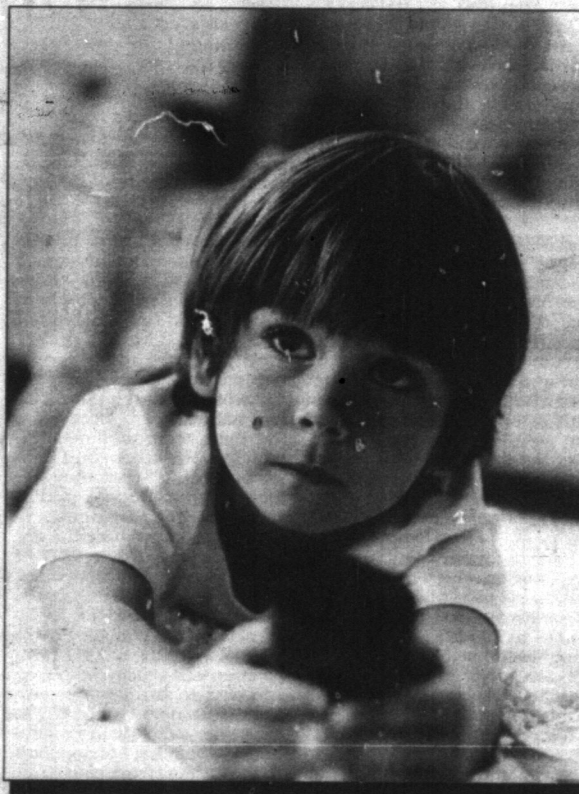
Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Co., and the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., co-sponsored a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the FCC.

"If the court opens the floodgates to so-called 'adult material' at all hours on broadcast TV and radio in the name of the First Amendment, then TV and radio will be open only to adults, not children, and, at that, adults who desire only more indecent material," the brief stated. "Television viewers will be forced to listen to indecent material. Profanity and sex will dominate daytime radio. Nothing in the First Amendment requires this result."

Conservative groups are concerned about the case because the high court's four-member conservative bloc — often reliable in taking the conservative stance on such social issue cases — might not hold together. Specifically, Justice Clarence Thomas in 2009 questioned the "viability" of two Supreme Court cases cited by the FCC as constitutionally supporting the current indecency policy: a 1969 case, *Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. FCC*, and a 1978 case, *FCC v. Pacifica Foundation*.

"*Red Lion* and *Pacifica* were unconvincing when they were issued, and the passage of time has only increased doubt regarding their continued validity," Thomas wrote in a 2009 concurring opinion.

In *Red Lion*, the Supreme Court upheld the so-called Fairness Doctrine. In *FCC v. Pacifica*, the high court ruled that the FCC had the authority to regulate indecent language on the airwaves. The latter case involved the late



comedian George Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words" routine.

Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council argued that the Supreme Court was right in its 1978 ruling to note that "since broadcasting was uniquely available to children merely by turning on the television or radio, it could be regulated to a greater extent than other forms of media."

The two pro-family groups also cited studies showing that media has a negative impact on children and can lead to risky sexual behaviors, poor body image, violence, and smoking.

The networks already are allowed to broadcast patently offensive material as long as it is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., the groups say, but it is wrong to broadcast such material during the daytime and early

evening when "children are likely to be in the audience."

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) filed a brief arguing that regulations on broadcast indecency are similar to regulations on public indecency. An indecent television broadcast, the legal organization said, "is essentially an indecent public display."

"Just as a state could prohibit someone from strutting around naked in public, the state could forbid someone from strutting around carrying a display — still or video — of someone naked," the ACLJ brief, which supported neither party, said. "Likewise, a state may forbid companies from broadcasting into people's homes programs depicting someone strutting around naked. Thus, an indecent broadcast is properly subject to government prohibition."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

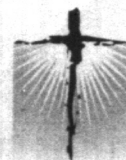
The CenturyMen, a 100-voice, all-male choir of Southern Baptists, performs at the sites of terrorist attacks in New York City. The group also performs in Washington, Baltimore, Richmond, and Williamsburg, Va.

### 20 years ago

Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., is the leading candidate to succeed Harold C. Bennett as president/treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, according to sources close to the search committee.

### 50 years ago

First Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., voted not to accept a "negro youth" as a member following a recommendation by the deacons that membership be denied on the basis of his motivation in seeking membership.



MISSISSIPPI  
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## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

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YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## NYC pastors arrested

NEW YORK (BP) — Police arrested New York City councilman and pastor Fernando Cabrera, a fellow pastor, and five others Jan. 5 on charges of criminal trespassing for kneeling and singing two hymns outside the doors of the New York City Law Department. The protest was part of an ongoing effort to overturn the city's ban against religious groups' use of public schools for worship services, scheduled to go into effect on Feb. 12. Before they knelt, the seven were standing with more than 50 people holding signs outside the building. Bill Devlin, pastor of Manhattan Bible Church one of those arrested, said the ban assaults freedom of religion and speech. Jordan Lorence, senior counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund, added that the case is based on a fundamental misinterpretation of the Constitution. He argues that forbidding private speech because it's religious is not protecting the separation of church and state. Rather, it suppresses freedom of religion and freedom of speech. Devlin's church has a 30,000 square-foot building of its own, but he said he is fighting for the 160 congregations likely to be homeless if the ban isn't overturned by Feb. 12. Those congregations that need meeting space now pay rent to financially strapped schools. The city's rationale for banning religious groups' use of public school space includes the notion that "impressionable children" might think that government is endorsing religious belief. Lorence and Devlin are concerned that the school-use ban will eventually become a broader ban against religious organizations meeting in any state-funded building. (Editor's note: This article from World News Service is used by permission.)

# OCCUPY

In December 2011, the headlines of an article caught my attention. It said, "Occupy — the number one word in 2011." For years researchers who do such things tell us a word that has come to the forefront in our usage that makes it the number one word of the year. It may be an old word that is being used in a new way or simply because of some circumstance it gets used over and over and we all find ourselves putting it into our vocabulary. Or at times it becomes a brand new word like there are so many new ones because of advancing technology that just picks up some new configuration of letters and it becomes important in our culture. In 2011, the word that rose to the top and became so important in our world and media was **occupy**. It somewhat started out as occupy Wall Street when all of these people started making their way to a park area and then they stayed and stayed. They put up tents and they continued to stay. It spread across the country and other people begin to go somewhere to a park and stay. There was occupy New York, occupy Washington, occupy Atlanta, and Mississippi did not get overlooked. We had occupy Mississippi or occupy Jackson. From time to time, there were disagreements and skirmishes that took place. Sometimes they were completely taken away from their occupy place. But I am sorry to tell you that I just absolutely did not understand what these people were doing. Personally, I was just rather baffled by the people who were a part of this movement. It was fine with me if they wanted to occupy, but read and listen as I may to them I just did not quite get it.

My understanding is that they were protesting which, of course, is their right. But listen as I may and read as I might, I have been unable to figure out what they were protesting. What were they looking at and what is it that they wanted to convey to the rest of the world? I have listened to some of them as they were interviewed and specifically asked, "What are you protesting? What are you against? What are you for?" I



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

have listened as they talked, sometimes seemingly forever, and I still did not get it. I think they were against banks, investors, and people who make a lot of money. I believe they wanted those people to give money to them so they could have a share of their profits. I kind of understand that they think people who are in business are making too much and it would be a lot better if they would just give them what they make. I am not against them and I am not protesting what they are doing. I just do not understand what they are doing.

Since occupy became the number one word in 2011, it struck me what a fascinating thing that was because that is what Jesus told us to do. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19, in a parable about the second coming Jesus tells about a man who entrusted to his servants certain things and he was going to leave. He said, "Occupy until I return." What Jesus was

telling His followers to do was far different than what this movement to occupy seems to be all about. For He was not saying to His people, "Sit down and do nothing — just fill a space and watch the world go by." He was not saying that at all. What Jesus was saying was that the master was saying to his servants, "You make the most of what I am giving you in the time that you have. You fill up the time with energy, effectiveness, and service. You give that space and time the best that you have rather than sitting down and doing nothing." Jesus was encouraging us to get up and get with it. So in light of occupy, not the occupy movement that has put people in parks sitting and being unproductive, but in terms of the number one word from Jesus in His parable, occupy and make your life available to Him. Count for the Lord in the time that you have.

Are you occupying? See the fact is that Jesus may be com-

ing soon. For those who may say, "Well, we do not know when He is going to come." You are exactly right. We do not know how much time we have until He returns. But equally important is when we are going to be leaving here. You may respond, "Well, we do not know when we are leaving either." You are absolutely right again, but what we do know unmistakably is that we have a limited amount of time and we must do what we can do in these days allotted to us. So can I close by asking you are you just occupying a pew or are you serving Jesus? Are you just showing up to receive or are you participating to give? Are you wanting others to make your life more comfortable or are you willing to be uncomfortable in order to give someone else life? To occupy is to give Jesus your best and your all.

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Clue: E = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Six: Twelve

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 12, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## Victory in Jesus Celebration

For Families

**Saturday, March 3**  
**8 a.m. — noon**

The Baptist Center  
(903 Valley View Drive)  
Philadelphia, MS

For more information:  
601-656-1820 or  
[neshobabaptist@yahoo.com](mailto:neshobabaptist@yahoo.com)

Planned and promoted by the Neshoba County Baptist Single Adult "TOWELS" and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## Victory in Jesus Celebration

**»Single Adult Addition**

**Friday, March 2**  
**6:30 — 9:30 p.m.**

@ The Baptist Center  
(903 Valley View Drive)  
Philadelphia, MS

Cost: \$5 at the door  
(with advanced  
reservation requested)

For more information:  
601-656-1820 or  
[neshobabaptist@yahoo.com](mailto:neshobabaptist@yahoo.com)

Planned and promoted by the Neshoba County Baptist Single Adult "TOWELS" and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## Camp Garaywa needs CITs!

Garaywa is looking for  
**16, 17, & 18 year old  
students**  
interested in serving  
**one week**  
of the summer as a  
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CITs choose the week of  
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application, visit [www.garaywa.org](http://www.garaywa.org) or call 601-934-7834.



## LEGAL ISSUES CONFERENCE

February 20, 2012

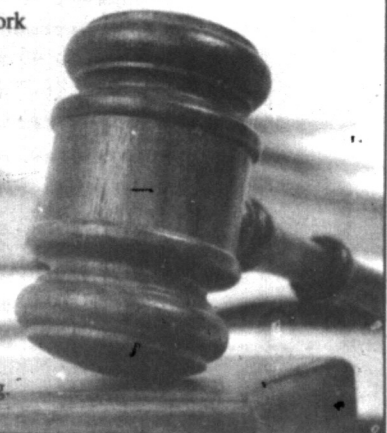
**Place:** X-Tended Missions Network  
office, Hernando

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Purpose:** Provide guidance  
on legal issues churches face

Contact Alan Woodward,  
Pastor Leadership  
Development Department  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 308  
or 601-292-3308

Preregistration is requested  
to provide adequate materials  
by e-mailing [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org)



## Grandparent Day Retreat

*For Grandparents and Grandchildren*  
(Children ages 6 – 15)

**Saturday, April 28**  
**From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.**

Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
6377 Altala Road 4227  
West MS 39192

For more information:  
**662-289-9730**

## 2012 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

JANUARY 29-30  
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## MBCB Student Connect Camp 2012

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Session I:

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Baptist Retreat

Session II:

June 7-10

Central Hills Baptist  
Retreat

Session III:

June 11-14

Blue Mountain  
College

601-292-3283 or redwards@mbcb.org, or contact Ken Hall at 601-292-3286 or khall@mbcb.org.

## 2012 Senior Leadership Lab

February 7

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Choose from lab sessions centered around:

- Grandparent Bible Storytelling, Paula Smith, MBCB, WMU
- Remembering the Life of Jesus (for any stage of dementia)  
Tom Washburn, Minister of Senior Adults, FBC, Jackson
- Developing a Model for Homebound  
Tom Parker, Pastor at New Hope BC, Foxworth
- Single-Senior Ministry, Cindy Still, Bay Minette, Ala.
- Trends in Senior Ministry, Glenn Shows

**Cost:** \$10 includes lunch and handouts

Register for the Leadership Lab by February 1

Mail payment to: MBCB, Attn: Glenn Shows, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205 OR Pay \$5 at the door, lunch not included

Logging at Garaywa - 601-924-7034

# 2012 STUDENT SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 28 • Blue Mountain College  
Blue Mountain, Mississippi

• Registration - 10 a.m. • Tournament - 10:30 a.m.

New Tournament Format

Featuring 2 Divisions

Mississippi Baptist College Division  
and At-Large Division

For more information contact René Edwards at  
601-292-3283 or redwards@mbcb.org, or  
contact Ken Hall at 601-292-3286 or khall@mbcb.org.

# Amazing Wonders 2012 VBS KICK OFF

FOR ALL VBS LEADERS

Watch amazing things happen as your kids come closer to God than ever before. You will see lives changed as kids tour some of the world's most marvelous natural wonders and explore God's awesome power as they learn to trust and recognize Him in their everyday lives.

March 1, 2012

8:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Review Heights

Church

Branch, Miss.

March 3, 2012

9 a.m. - noon

First Baptist Church

Richland, Miss.

1102 Hwy 49 S


VBS materials will be on display and available to purchase from LifeWay Christian Resources. An overview of LifeWay Curriculum, Worship Rally, Crafts, and Snacks. Training Sessions for Evangelism, Promotion, and Decorations. Local users of non-LifeWay curriculum will share.

For more information contact Anna Boydston at  
a.boydston@mbcb.org or Lee Aik Boykin at  
l.boykin@mbcb.org or call

601-715-1631, ext. 292, or 601-292-3283  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205



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2012 MISSIONS CAMP FOR GIRLS

**Registration  
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Register online at [www.garaywa.org](http://www.garaywa.org).  
 For more information, please contact  
 Karen at 601-924-7034.

**DATES** .....

<b>Missions Camp for Students:</b>	<b>Missions Camp for Girls:</b>
June 25-29	June 11-15
July 9-13	June 18-22
	June 25-29
	July 2-4 (Mini Camp)
	July 9-13
	July 16-20
	July 23-27



**WWW.GARAYWA.ORG**

**"Impacting the World  
Around Me"**

Isaiah 43:18&19

**8th Annual  
Senior Adult Evangelism Rally**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012**  
**BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH**

<b>8:00</b>	<b>A.M. REGISTRATION/REFRESHMENTS</b>
<b>8:15</b>	<b>EARLY BIRD:</b> "FUN TIME SHARING THE GOOD NEWS" KANDI FARRIS, GULFPORT (AUTHOR OF: NEVER THE LESS—THAT'LL PREACH!)
<b>8:45</b>	<b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>BREAK-OUTS:</b> • "IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS" SHERRI AND BRUCE BURK, MISSIONARIES TO NEPAL, INDIA • "GRANDPARENTING: BIBLE STORYTELLING" PAULA SMITH, WMU, MBCB • "FUN TIME SHARING THE GOOD NEWS" (REPEAT) KANDI FARRIS, GULFPORT

**10:00 BREAK (REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY:  
MS BAPTIST FOUNDATION)**

**10:45 WORSHIP CELEBRATION RALLY**  
**MUSIC:** LINCOLN CORALE, BROOKHAVEN  
**PREACHER:** BILLY HATLEY, BIRMINGHAM, Ala.  
 SENIOR ADULT COORDINATOR FOR SCOTT  
 DAWSON EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

**11:45 ADJOURN**  
 For more information contact: [gshows@mbcb.org](mailto:gshows@mbcb.org)  
 or 800.748.1651, ext. 284

Pray this day for...

January 13 - 26, 2012

*"Sing to the LORD a new song... Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."*

*Psalms 96:1-3*

Pray for: **Matthew\* and Megan\* Brewer**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks\***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Chile through church planting.

Pray for: **John and Claudia\* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Malawi through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for the National Mobilization Directors' Meeting, Jan. 18-20. Ask the Lord to guide these leaders with His vision for reaching a lost world.

Pray for: a team of nine from **Overflow BC**, Florence, as they travel to Kenya to minister through evangelism, July 8-20.

Pray for: **Donald\* and Teresa\* Bolls**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach evangelism and agriculture missions.

Pray for: a team of six from **Fredonia BC** as they travel to Costa Rica to minister through VBS and construction, Jan. 14-21.

Pray for: **Richard\* and Wanda Clark**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through missions strategy coordination.

Pray for: a team of eight from **NorthStar Church** as they travel to Southeast Asia to minister through church planting and evangelism, Jan. 24 - Feb. 7.

Pray for: a team of 20 from **Lauderdale BA** as they travel to Costa Rica to minister through VBS and evangelism, Jan. 24-31.

Pray for: a team of two from **Harmony Hills BC** as they travel to Southeast Asia to minister through evangelism, Jan. 25 - Feb. 8.

Pray for: **Guy\* and Cindy\* DeMars**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan Peoples in Senegal through church and home outreach, evangelism and hospitality coordination.

Pray for: **Donald\* and Donna\* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through church and home outreach, evangelism and church planting.

Pray for: **David and Pamela\* Carlton**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in South Africa through church and home outreach, evangelism, and theological education.

\*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

## 2012 HeartSong

Music and Worship Arts Camp  
June 26-30, 2012

William Carey University • Hattiesburg, Miss.

Students will learn and present:  
**Are We There Yet?**  
Featuring songs from: Jeremy Camp, Fee, Chris Tomlin and more

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CAMP OPPORTUNITY!  
\$165 per person on campus  
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## GROWING CHURCHES

Sponsored by thirteen South Mississippi associations and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

### The Story: Telling it in an Ever Changing World

July 27-28, 2012

Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Event includes worship, special tracks, small group conferences and more. Learn strategies for sharing **The Story** with: preschoolers, children, students, adults, and the world. \*Special track available for Spanish speakers.

For more information contact Don Hicks at dhicks@mbcb.org or 801-292-3287

Miss Laura Wingo - 3/1/01

Parents: Floyd & Sylvia  
South America

Miss R. R. - 3/2/09

Parents: J & K  
Restricted

Miss Lullie Adair - 3/6/9

Parents: James & Mary  
Margaret  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Erin DeMars - 3/6/95

Parents: Guy & Cindy  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Emma Grace Roberts

3/11/00  
Parents: Marty & Suzanne  
European Peoples

Miss Kalyn - 3/11/04

Parents: C & C  
Restricted

Miss Hanna C. - 3/11/93

Parents: J & M  
Restricted

Mr. Charlie S. - 3/13/05

Parents: J & C  
Restricted

Miss Abigail Hewitt

3/15/97  
Parents: Earl & Ramona  
West Africa

Miss Emma Grace Epps

3/17/03  
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany  
South America

Mr. Stephen Edward

3/21/11  
Parents: M & G  
Restricted

Miss Mary Ellen - 3/21/11

Parents: M & G  
Restricted

Miss Emma Worthy

3/28/03  
Charlie & Shannon Worthy  
Western Europe

Miss Heather Beaman

3/28/92  
Parents: Brad & Lenora  
Last Frontier

Miss Grace Holyfield

3/31/93  
Parents: Michael & Patsy  
European Peoples

### Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

► Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



# HOUSE TOPS



# Retired missionary pines for Nigerian people

REIDSVILLE, N.C. (BP) — Shirley Gunn learned to live by some simple rules during her nearly 35 years as a missionary in Nigeria: spend time with and love others, hold tight to the Word of God, and keep your eyes open when praying with strangers.

Dubbed by some Nigerians as the "queen of robberies" after being robbed multiple times — including one time at gunpoint — the 67-year-old retiree has lived to tell about some difficult years.

The challenges are just part of the story for Gunn, who has grown especially thankful for her career overseas through the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Richmond, Va.

Gunn is quick to share about how blessed Americans are and how so many could sacrifice just a little more for God's work. She saw firsthand the importance of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Today the offering and Southern Baptist's Cooperative Program support nearly 5,000 missionaries around the globe. The 2012 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$175 million.

"There is so much consumerism and materialism [in this country]," said Gunn, who now lives in Reidsville, N.C., where she attends First Church. "Is this what Christmas is about, or do we try to teach the true meaning — God sending His Son?"

Traveling the tough roads of Nigeria for so many years, Gunn realized how important

support was to keeping her ministry going strong, amidst a challenging environment. Over the years, Gunn watched missionaries pack up and leave Nigeria because they were unable to adapt to the poverty, crime, and lack of resources.

"Living in Nigeria, living in West Africa is difficult," Gunn said. Still, Gunn misses the place that became her home. "I miss the Nigerians. I miss my work," she said.

Gunn was appointed to Nigeria in 1975. She went to work for the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomoso. There, she served as a librarian for 14 years. Though Gunn enjoyed her position with the seminary, she longed for days when she was able to spend time ministering to Nigerians suffering from leprosy (also known as Hansen's disease).

"I would go out there and

just be with them," said Gunn, who would take them supplies, food, and medicine.



Gunn

In 1990, Gunn went to work for the Nigerian Baptist Convention in Ibadan, a much larger city of between three and five million people. With the convention, she helped head up the publishing ministry that produced a variety of materials in three languages for Bible studies, family and personal devotions, discipleship, evangelism, children's ministry, and literacy education.

It was in Ibadan, however, where resources did not keep up with the city's exploding population, that Gunn found herself among desperate Nigerians struggling to make a living. For many Nigerians, a single, American woman seemed too tempting a target.

"The office was robbed, the car I was driving was taken at gunpoint, and I was robbed in my house twice," she said.

Through all of it, Gunn escaped virtually without a scratch, but the car robbery haunted her for many months.

"I had nightmares for months," she said. "I would wake up seeing a guy with a gun."

She recalled the time when a group of men forced their way into her home and were unable to find her hiding in a walk-in closet. "An angel hid that door from them because they came in the room, took things out of the drawers, and went into the bathroom," she said. "They never even tried the door."

There was another time Gunn sat in her living room as robbers threatened her and nearly "tore down the house." Gunn remembers sitting in a recliner praying out loud for the intruders. "I said, 'Now Lord, I know that you have created them for a purpose. My prayer is that they will find a purpose for which You have created them.'"

"I was never physically harmed," she said. "They did push me, but I didn't fall."

Gunn said one of her drivers gave her some advice that she often didn't take. "He said, 'Momma, I have tried to teach you that you do not close your eyes when you are praying with somebody you do not know,'" she recounted.

All of her trials, though, have left her undaunted and have strengthened her faith in God. "I said if somebody is trying to drive me away this

is not going to work," she said. "When God tells me to go, I will go."

"I miss the Nigerians. I miss my work."

— Shirley Gunn  
retired missionary  
Nigeria

In 2009, Gunn officially retired from IMB and returned to North Carolina where she was raised. Today, Gunn takes care of her 94-year-old mother Gladys and tutors three days a week for the Rockingham County Literacy Project.

Gunn admitted she remains saddened when she reads headlines of trouble in her former homeland, where poverty and Muslim extremism is on the rise and Christians confront persecution. She still believes there is hope for Nigeria.

"Reaching the rest of them is going to take a lot of being there and establishing relationships," she said.

Gunn's advice to future missionaries? "Try to be with [your assigned people group] as much as possible and love them," she said. "We may not see the harvest... in our generation [but] the story will be told until Christ comes for sure."

Like IMB President Tom Elliff, Gunn said the responsibility of impacting the tough areas of the world falls on all believers in Christ — not just missionaries.

"Everybody is a missionary," she said. "All of us must be missionaries where we are now."

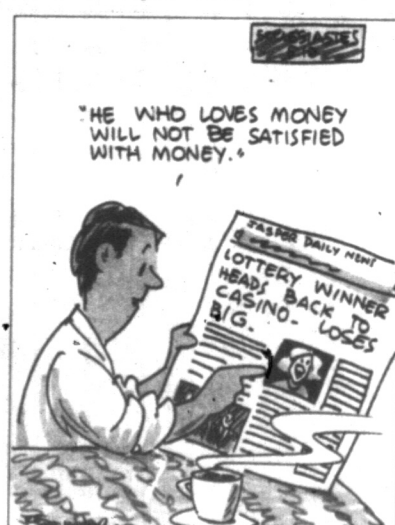
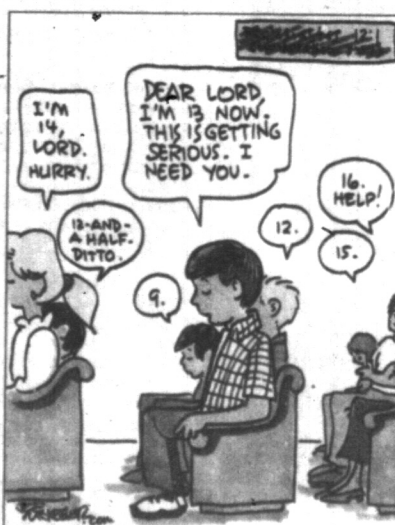
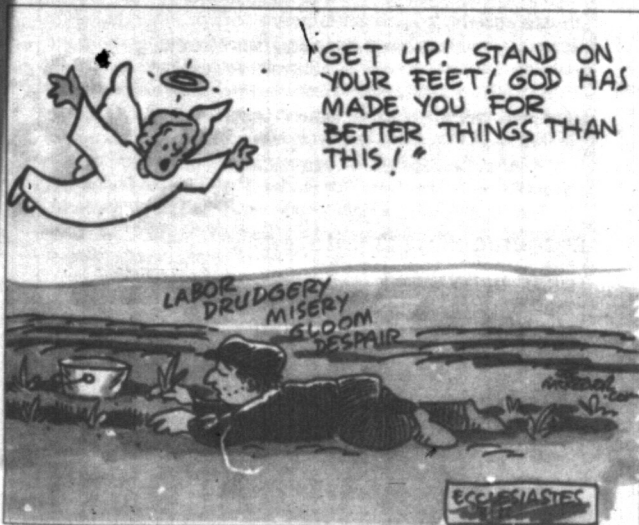
## Popular McKeever cartoons returning for January Bible Study

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will be going through the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes the next several weeks as they take part in the

SBC's annual January Bible Study. This year's study will use the book, *The Pursuit: Chasing Answers to Life's Questions*, by David S. Dockery as a guide. The book and other supporting

materials are available from LifeWay Christian Resources ([lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com)). As an additional aid to churches and study leaders, Baptist Press cartoonist Joe McKeever has created 13 cartoons that can be used in

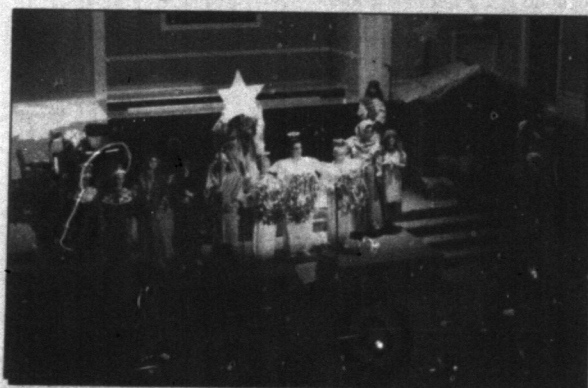
handouts, worksheets, and slides during the study. The cartoons can be downloaded for free from <http://sbc.baptistpress.org/BPnews.asp?ID=36890>.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Harmony Church, Clarke Co.



3. Handsboro Church, Gulfport



5. Gracewood Church, Southaven



6. Certificate presentations

1. **Harmony Church, Clarke Co.**, held a children's dedication service Dec. 18. Shown are the participants.

2. **Grace Church, Vicksburg**, exceeded their \$1000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal by collecting \$2,341.

3. The children's choir of **Handsboro Church, Gulfport**, presented *Stranger in the Manger* Dec. 18, directed by Debbie Nicholson. Interim music director, Peggy McBride. Shown are the participants.

4. The deacons of **Wanilla Church, Lawrence County**, hosted a pancake breakfast for church members and guests prior to their Christmas Day cantata.

5. The Crossroads Sunday School class of **Gracewood Church, Southaven**, enjoyed a trip to Bruce to hear the Bellinger Family. Shown are the participants.

6. The **Pike County Association** certificate site center, in partnership with New Orleans Seminary, presented certificates at Tangipahoa Church to (back row) Richard Woods, Mike Morris, Kirk Haskins, and Michael Didon. Front row, Steve Clark, David Millican, and Jody Dean.

7. **Brandon Church, Brandon**, is hosting the annual Romanian-American Mission banquet Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m. Cost, \$15 per person. For more information, call (601) 825-4114 or 720-7011.

8. The sanctuary and children's choirs of **Slayden Church, Slayden**, presented *Singing Christmas Home* under the direction of Joel Strahan, followed by a church-wide fellowship. Shown are the participants.

9. The children's choir of **Goss Church, Columbia**, presented *The Light Before Christmas* Dec. 4. Shown are the participants.



8. Slayden Church, Slayden



9. Goss Church, Columbia

## National Parks Tour

Kings Canyon - Sequoia - Yosemite  
Arches - Canyonlands - Bryce Canyon  
Zion - Capitol Reef - Grand Canyon

14 Days **Departs July 20, 2012** from \$1398\*

**Take time for reflection of God's remarkable creation!**

Take a relaxing trip on your luxurious coach as you travel with other Baptists through the changing landscapes and farmlands of central California. Witness the giant Redwood trees in **Kings Canyon** and **Sequoia National Parks**, then be amazed at the rock formations and waterfalls in **Yosemite National Park**. You'll also visit majestic Lake Tahoe with 72 miles of pristine shoreline. In Utah tour the world's largest man-made excavation - the Kennecott Copper Mine; 2, 2/3 miles wide plus the Great Salt Lake! Next tour the unique rocks shaped by wind, water, sun and frost at **Arches' National Park**; and **Canyonlands**, with enchanting vistas carved by the Colorado and Green Rivers. Next your Baptist group will visit **Capitol Reef** and **Bryce Canyon National Parks** and drive through the Dixie National Forest. On Monday, you'll arrive at the grandest of all National Parks, **The Grand Canyon**, for both a day and night. Enjoy the sunset that evening and sunrise the following morning! Your final national park is **Zion National Park** featuring waterfalls, domes, rock needles, and even lush foliage. Your Chaplain is Rev. Roy Myers whom is currently retired after serving 43 years in several Mississippi churches including 11 1/2 years at Rocky Creek Baptist Church in Lucedale and 5 years at Meadville Baptist Church. This will be Rev Roy Myers 8th trip with YMT. \*Per person, double occupancy, includes taxes. Airfare is extra.

For details, itinerary, reservations & letter from Rev. Myers with his phone number call 7 days a week

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**Record**

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## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Caring in an Expendable Culture

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

By Burn Page

The first part of Psalm 139 (vs. 1-18) consists mainly of thanksgiving for God's discernment, perception, and purpose for the individual. The second part (vs. 19-24), however, is in the form of a prayer offered in a time of distress. The psalmist is not engaged in quiet reverie on divine attribute but pleading for justice to be done (Allen).

A figure of speech (known as a *merism*) using two polar extremes to include everything in between is used three times in this psalm:

(1) You know when I sit down and when I stand up (v.2). These two opposites of sitting and standing represent all his actions. God not only knew the psalmist's actions; he knew his thoughts or motivations as well from afar. "From

afar" may refer not only to distance but to time.

(2) The second set of opposites — "travels" ("going out") or "rest" ("lying down") represent the whole day's activities that the LORD "discerns" or "understands" (v.3). Further, the LORD knew what the psalmist was going to say before he said it (v. 4). Initially, the psalmist was troubled by God's omniscience thinking that God had hemmed him in or "cupped his hand over him" (v. 5), but then he responded with wonder, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me" [NIV & ESV, v. 6]. The word "wonderful" could be translated "incomprehensible" or "extraordinary," or "beyond me" [HCSB].

(3) The third set of opposites is found in verses 8-9. There is



Page

no place for the psalmist to go to escape the presence of the LORD, whether it be in the heavens above or Sheol below. Even if he could fly at the speed of light — from the eastern horizon to the western limits (v. 8) God's hand would lead or guide him.

The preceding verses demonstrate how much God valued the psalmist. We demonstrate that we value people when we take time to know them. And God knew the when, where, why, and how of all of the psalmist's life. The good news of grace is that God knows all about you — even your inmost thoughts — and he is always present in our lives. He is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Ps. 46:1).

In the Old Testament, the people pictured God as one who was both transcendent and remote. He lived on the mountain top; therefore, Moses went up the mountain to meet with God, and it was

on a mountain that Elijah met God and heard the "still small voice." However, Psalm 23 states that "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (valley of deep darkness) I will not fear." Why? "Because you are with me" (v.4). When we walk in darkness we feel lost and afraid, but the Bible teaches that when we are walking in darkness — lost and scared — that the God of the mountain is present in the valleys of our lives — "You are with me" — protecting me and guiding me.

Here in Psalm 139:11-12, the psalmist speaks of the oppressive nature of darkness, but then affirms that "even darkness . . . is as light to you." Even in his "mother's womb," the "secret place," there God wove or "knitted" (suggesting veins or arteries) him together. Even though remote to the human eye as "the depths of the earth" (a place of darkness), God saw every detail. He saw his frame (his skeleton) and his unformed body (embryo). In these verses (13-18), there is a continued

emphasis on the emphatic use of "you" — "you know . . . you created." The Lord created each one of us as a spiritual and physical being for a purpose. "All the days ordained for me were written in your book" (v. 16).

My mother's left arm and leg were paralyzed from polio, and yet she graduated from college and had a family and a career. I have seen students, some with no arms and others with no legs. I have a grandson who suffers from epilepsy. But I have never seen anyone without a purpose in life. I am writing this lesson in the wake of the defeat of Initiative 26 (the Personhood Amendment). While I regret that abortion is still a part of our society, I pray that one day a law can be written in which all Christians can be united in defending all God's children who are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Page is chair of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College and a member of First Church, Clinton.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Be Resolute about Life's Value

Deuteronomy 5:17, 19: 7-13, 24: 6-7; Matthew 5:17-20

By Melleen Moore

The 'value of life' and the 'right to life' are phrases on which no numerical price can be placed. Both phrases have a meaning rooted in Jesus Christ. He, being God himself, came to live the life of a man granting all the right to life. Each day the news tells of another senseless taking of an innocent life. This causes us to pose such questions as 'What is the value of life' and 'Does man have the right to life'. Both questions can be answered with a resounding 'yes' proven in the Biblical scriptures. God is the giver of life — a gift from Him.

#### Fulfilling God's Commandment Against Murder

Deuteronomy 5:17;  
Matthew 5:17-20  
"Thou shalt not kill"  
Deuteronomy 5:17, KJV. The

law is simple; there are no excuses or reasons allowed in the sixth commandment for murder. Murder can be defined as the intentional taking of a life. There are some thoughts that immediately come to mind — abortion, shooting or stabbing. However, what about euthanasia, or physician assisted suicide, these also take a person's life. Another thought is that of the 'heart' as hatred and anger or a wish for someone to die. Hatred and anger cause one to be morally guilty needing forgiveness. In God's law, the Ten Commandments, to the Children of Israel the first four commandments were God's relationship to His people while the remaining six were people's relationship with each other. In Matthew, Jesus



Moore

states that He came to fulfill the law not to destroy it. With the explanation that the moral law would not change but was to be obeyed and taught as it was written. Jesus lived by the law with love and compassion, the perfect example for us to do the same.

#### Protecting the Innocent, Punishing the Guilty Deuteronomy 19:7-13

God in His infinite wisdom blended justice and mercy. He established cities of refuge to provide safety and protection for any committed manslaughter, unintentional death. There were to be three cities of refuge on either side of the Jordan River. After the territory of Canaan was secured, it was to be divided into three parts with a city of refuge in each part. Roads were to be built and maintained for easy access as a man could be literally running for his life. If he reached a city of refuge before the avenger attack, he was safe allowing

time to determine the unintended nature of the death. The avenger was the next of kin of the victim. The refuge cities were not for intentional or premeditated murderers. The scripture clearly outlines one guilty of murder would be given over to the victims family avenger. Our laws and their interpretation should protect the innocent and punish the guilty.

#### Safeguarding Life's Value Deuteronomy 24: 6-7

God intended for man to value his own life as well as that of others. The word 'life' may suggest a physical being; however each life is so much more with its own personality and character. It has its own spiritual nature leading to a search for a relationship with God. Man is made in the image of God, according to Genesis, giving it immeasurable value — more valuable than possessions and property. The scripture explains safeguards included in the law that protect ones ability to provide for himself and his family.

Collateral is a common practice in today's financial world when a debt is incurred. In verse six, God gives specific instruction against taking of a pair or a single millstone used to grind wheat as that would affect ones ability to provide food. The second safeguard mentioned is against kidnapping of an Israelite as a slave or to sell to be a slave. Ultimately the kidnapper would gain financially; however breaking of this law carried the penalty of death. Being a slave takes away the freedom of a person thus placing the value of life as a liberty granted by our country's constitution. Scripture often focuses on the care of the oppressed be it widows, children, prisoners, or those who are hungry. Meeting needs of each other and standing for freedom are ways of safeguarding the value of life. How resolved are we to protect the value of life?

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**

## Religious violence rises in Indonesia, affects Christians

**NEW DELHI, India (BP)** — Acts of violence and intolerance against Christians in Indonesia nearly doubled in 2011, with an Islamist campaign to close down churches a key factor in the plight of the nation's religious minority.

The Indonesian Protestant Church Union, locally known as PGI, counted 54 acts of violence and other violations against Christians in 2011, up from 30 in 2010. The number of such incidents against religious minorities in general also grew from 198 in 2010 to 276 in 2011.

The worst may be yet to come if authorities continue to overlook the threat of extremism, said a representative of a Jakarta-based Muslim organization that promotes tolerance, the Wahid Institute.

Rumadi, who goes by a single name, said the Wahid Institute also observed an attempt to institutionalize intolerance in Indonesia, a nation of about 238 million people of whom about 88% are Muslim. At least 36 regulations to ban religious practices deemed deviant from Islam were drafted or implemented in Indonesia in 2011.

A Jakarta-based civil rights group, the Setara Institute for Democracy and Peace, noted that both the government

and groups in society were responsible for the incidents, with the main violators including religious extremist organizations such as the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI).

Indonesia's hotbed of extremism is West Java, the most populous province where the nation's capital, Jakarta, is located, with 160 recorded incidents against religious minorities. In the 1950s, West Java was the base of an Islamist group, Darul Islam, whose splinter groups are still active in fighting the "secular" government and religious minorities.

Churches in West Java, which has about 520,000 Christians, suffered last year and on Christmas Day, two churches in West Java's Bogor city bore the brunt of growing extremism.

"Islamist vigilantes screamed and yelled at us and threatened us, as we sought to hold a Christmas service," a leader of the Gereja Kristen Indonesia, also known as the GKI or the Yasmin Church, told Compass Direct News in an e-mail.

"We could not hold Christmas service in our own church for a second year," said the source, who requested anonymity.



**SCHOOL'S OUT** — Two children head home from a school started by Christians in a crime-plagued Muslim community in Jakarta, Indonesia. The school has given new hope to the community, but Islamist violence against the country's Christians and their institutions has been on a steady rise of several years. (BP photo)

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. **William Carey University** announces that general registration for the Spring Trimester for new students begins on Friday, February 17, from 8 - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 5 p.m. Spring trimester classes begin on February 20 and end May 2. Freshmen must submit a completed application, application fee, official ACT or SAT scores, official high school transcript, and proof of immunizations. Transfer students must submit a completed application, application fee, official academic transcripts from each college previously attended, and proof of immunizations. Re-admitted students must submit a completed application for readmission. For more information or to speak with an advisor, contact the Office of Admissions at (601)318-6103 or [admissions@wmcarey.edu](mailto:admissions@wmcarey.edu).

# REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS


1. **Pineview Church, Clinton:** 25th anniversary celebration, Jan. 15; service, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds.
2. **Kennedy Springs Church, Magee:** Revival, Jan. 15 - 18; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Saye, speaker; Tim Drane, worship; Don Kleebe, pastor.

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